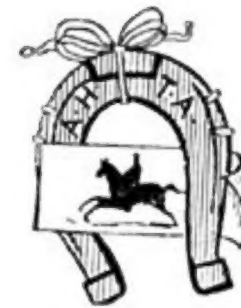


The Anti-Horse Thief Association



Motto: "Protect The Innocent; Bring The Guilty to Justice"

Arkansas Division 1914

**The
Anti-Horse Thief Association**

**History-Principles
And
How To Organize**

Fifth Edition – 1914

National Officers

**Pres., John W Wall, Parson, Kansas
V. Pres., C. W. Crow, Carthage, Missouri
Sec., P. B. Adair, Holdenville, Oklahoma**

Officers, Arkansas Division

**President, John P Scott, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Vice President W. W. Rientz, Huntington, Arkansas
Secretary J. A. Farley, Springdale, Arkansas**

Official Paper

**“The A. H. T. A. Weekly News”
Published At St. Paul, Kansas
W. W. Graves, Editor**

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Preface

In reprinting this A. H. T. A. booklet it is my intention to bring to light information concerning the A. H. T. A. from the Horse's mouth.

While the internet has some information concerning the A. H. T. A. there is very little information concerning its operation or organization in the State of Arkansas.

Northwest Arkansas was very active in the Arkansas Division of the A. T. H. A., with many Washington County elected officials having membership.

PREFACE

To The Reader:

The publication of former editions of this booklet was prompted and demanded for several good reasons vis:

To convey information to the uninformed, to correct false and erroneous ideas existing and to give instructions briefly “How to Organize a New Sub-Order of the A. H. T. A.”

Noting the approval given by these former editions, by other divisions of the A. H. T. A., and also by other kindred associations, fully believing that it has done a great work for the A. H. T. A., that it has given material aid in extending the order and increasing its membership, and that the same reasons still exist for its publication, as heretofore, it is again revised and reissued by its original authors.

John W. Wall,
G. J. McCarty,
W. W. Graves.

A. H. T. A. MOTTO:

“Protect the innocent. Bring the Guilty to Justice.”

THE NEWS.

ST. Paul, Kansas.
1914.

WHAT IS THE A. H. T. D ?

The Anti-Horse Thief Association is all that the name implies and much more. It is an association of law abiding, peaceable and liberty loving citizens, banded together for mutual protection and fraternal assistance, to make the commission of crime the more difficult and the capture of criminals the more certain.

The following preamble to the constitution of the Arkansas Division, clearly set forth the objects of the A. H. T. A.;

Preamble--“We, the State Order, including the delegates representing the Subordinate Orders of the Anti-Horse Thief Association of the State of Arkansas and its jurisdiction, being a part of and acting with the National Order of the A. H. T. A., for better protection of ourselves against the depredation of thieves, robbers, counterfeiters, incendiaries, tramps and all criminals, do hereby pledge ourselves to cooperate with and capture and prosecution of all such offenders, and to aid each other in the recovery of stolen property.

From this outline of principles the reader will observe that the A. H. T. A. stands for much more than its name would indicate, covering, as it does every species of lawlessness and crime.

Fraternity—It is a fraternal order similar to well-known societies, such as the Masons, Off-Fellows, Woodsmen, etc., as like

them it harkins to the cry of a member in distress, administering to his needs is a sickness, follows his body to its last resting place, and then lends its sympathy to the bereaved family.

Patriotism—It is a patriotic order as none except law-abiding people can belong to it and it teaches love and respect for our country and its laws.

Detective—It is a detective order, as it seeks for and captures the law-breaker, who dares to molest its members.

Protective—It is a protective order as the primary object of LAW is protection. Thieves and law-breakers fear it and shun it. Where ever a live lodge of the A. H. T. A. exist, few thieves are found.

Secrecy—It is a secret order, yet only so far as it is necessary to carry on its work. Its members have secret ways of knowing each other, that they may be imposed upon by outsiders.

Co-Operative—It is a co-operative order, local, state and national orders working in unison, individual members, lodges and state orders all lending assistance to each other. Many counties have county orders that they may act quickly to concert, offer larger rewards, etc.

Law Enforcement—It is an officers' aid society, working in harmony with sheriffs and police officers, and when a criminal is captured it turns him over to the civil authorities as soon as possible.

Public Benefactor—It is public benefit. Thieves know that every member of the A. H.



JOHN W. WALL National President Parsons Kansas



D. R. ADAIR, National Secretary, Holdenville, Oklahoma

T. A. is on the alert as a detective, therefore they shun a locality where a live lodge exists. Also, a thief in jail will steal from no one, consequently it is a benefit to the general public. But do not borrow this small part of its protection, but get the full benefit by being a member.

Auto, Motor Cycles, Etc.--Automobiles and motor cycles having come into such general use, it is worthy of mention that they are under the protection of the order, as is all other property.

WHAT THE A. H. T. A. IS NOT.

Vigilance Committee—It is NOT a vigilance committee. It bears no resemblance to “Vigilants”, “Regulators”, or “White-Caps.” It is opposed to mob violence in any form. A member who takes part in a mob will be expelled and a lodge taking part will have its charter taken away. It turns the captured criminal over to the legal authorities and assists in the prosecution with evidence, thus the “innocent” is protected and the guilty brought to justice.”

Political—It is NON-political. Its members belong to all parties, and it takes no part in political campaigns or elections.

Religious—It is not a religious order. It has no religious test, nor any connection with any sect or creed, yet it has the approval of all religious societies, and many ministers belong to it.

ORIGIN AND NAME

The first lodge of the A. H. T. A. was organized by

Major David McKee and five associates at the Highland school house in Clark County, Missouri near the Missouri-Iowa line in October, 1854

This lodge was organized for the specific purpose of protection against a band of horse thieves having its headquarters in that neighborhood, and to devise a plan to break up the gang, hence Major McKee, who is considered its founder called it "The Anti-Horse Thief Association," which name it still retains.

Other localities hearing of its good work, organized other lodges, but its progress was slow.

National Order—On October 23, 1863, the representatives of four lodges met at Aetna, Missouri, to form a co-operative plan for their work, and there was organized what has since been known as the National Order of the A. H. T. A.. Major David McKee was elected as its first president and Jacob S. Bennington, its secretary.

State Orders or Division—The organization reaching out into different states it became necessary for convenience of meeting together and the organizations of new lodges, that the association should be subdivided into state orders or divisions, consequently on October 20, 1881, at the national order meeting at Keokuk, Iowa, the national order gave the state charters to Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Kansas. Each one to organize as a state order as to have control of its own local affairs of organizing, etc., yet all to be under the Supreme National Order.

FORM OF UNION.

The A. H. T. A. is composed of three distinct departments or orders, viz: National or supreme order; State Orders or divisions and Sub-Orders or lodges.

The National Order—Is composed of its officers and delegates from the state orders. It meets annually on the first Thursday in October, at which time it elects its officer, makes general laws for the entire order, formulates a secret or unwritten work, and selects a place for the next meeting.

A State Order or Division—Is composed of its officers and delegates from the sub-orders in its jurisdiction, In Arkansas it meets annually on the third Thursday in October, at which time it elects its officers, makes the laws for its local government and for the lodges under it, elects delegates to the national order meeting, imparts the new secret work to their respective delegates, who carry it to their respective lodges, and select a place for its next meeting.

A Sub-Order or Lodge—Is composed of its individual membership. It meets monthly or oftener if it so desires and may hold special meetings if necessary, elects its officers at a regular meeting in September and makes the by-laws for its local government.

STATE DIVISIONS AND JURISDICTION

The National Order is divided into state divisions with jurisdiction as follows:

Arkansas Division—With jurisdiction over Arkansas and Louisiana

Illinois Division—Over Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and all territories south of the Ohio river and east of the Mississippi river otherwise not districted.

East Oklahoma Division—Over East Oklahoma and Texas

Missouri Division—Over Missouri and Iowa.

Kansas Division—Over Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and all territory north and west not otherwise districted.

West Oklahoma—Over West Oklahoma and New Mexico.

WHO MAY JOIN AND HOW.

Any reputable citizen over Twenty-one years of age is eligible to membership.

Any lady may become a protective member and have full protection of this order by paying membership fee and local dues, if the lodge accepts her application.

Widows of deceased members are under the same protection as tho the husband had lived.

Ladies cannot attend the closed sessions of the lodge.

A person wishing to join the A. H. T. A. should make application thru some member of the lodge nearest to his home. The application passes thru an advisory or investigating committee and then by ball ballot, as in other secret societies.

Two black balls reject a candidate.

Every good honest citizen should belong to the A. H. T. A. Bad men need not apply.

METHOD OF OPERATION

Strength—The great strength of the A. H. T. A

is in the cooperation or centralization of power, “In union there is strength” the “Many in one combined” has many advantages over the independent association, for while the single order might encompass its own neighborhood, the A. H. T. A. cover many states and if you are not a member of any association then you are weaker still.

Methods—The A. H. T. A. uses only strictly honorable, legal methods, yet it does its work so systematically, that few criminals escape when it takes to the trail.

Communication—Each lodge can communicate by wire, phone or letter with all other lodges of the whole national order of 1300 lodges and 50,000 members, thus a crime may be committed against a member in Illinois and the criminal be apprehended in Arizona or wherever he may go near a lodge.

Value Stolen—The value of the article stolen is not taken into consideration. If he molest an Anti, “Catch him.” An individual could not afford to do this, the A. H. T. A. can.

Protection—Thieves steal for the profit there may be in it. The A. H. T. A. seeks to make it very risky to steal from one of its members. Thieves know this and pass the Anti by and steal from others, hence the protection it affords.

The Outsider—Do we take up crime committed against an outsider? Not necessarily. He should have joined the order. We would be under no more obligation to render assistance than would an insurance company to pay for a house that had burned when the

owner had not taken the trouble to insure it. Were we to take up outsiders losses what incentive to join?

Mr. Outsider, why are you not a member of the A. H. T. A. ?

THE COST.

The A. H. T. A. is the cheapest fraternal, protective association in the world.

The charter membership fee is \$1.00

The membership fee to join is \$1.00

The local lodge dues are fixed by each lodge to suit its needs, they vary from 50 cents to \$2.00 per year.

The annual dues to the state order are fixed annually at the state meeting, In the Arkansas Division it has never been more than 30 cents. In other divisions it varies from five to twenty cents. The national dues are from one-half to one and one-half cents per member, paid from the state treasury.

INCORPORATION.

The national order is incorporated under the laws of Kansas. Most divisions are chartered under the laws of their respective states.

HOW TO ORGINZE A NEW SUB-ORDER.

Organizers—The state president, his commissioned deputies are authorized to organize new sub-orders of the A. H. T. A. anywhere in the Arkansas jurisdiction.

The first step towards organizing a new Sub-order

is to obtain from the state president, or the state secretary of the Arkansas division a “blank petition for charter to organize.” It will be furnished free.

The constitution (Arkansas) requires this petition to be signed by ten or more petitioners, but as the national constitution requires seven of the original must be present at the organization, it is best to have twelve or more signers to the petition.

Having the petition properly certified as the blank indicates, send \$5.00, the charter fee, to the state president and await his instructions.

If the state president shall approve of the petition he will issue a charter and send it to an authorized organizer with the necessary supplies furnished, If for any reason the charter is not issued the \$5.00 will be returned to the sender.

No lodge can be organized within five miles of another lodge, except in incorporated towns or by special dispensation from the state president.

FORMS OF ORGANIZING.

1st. Balloting on Charter Members.

2nd. Administer the Obligation.

3rd. Election of Officers for the Remainder of the Current Year.

4th. Installation of Officers.

5th. Organizer should declare the lodge ready for business.

6th. Selection of place and time of holding regular meetings.

7th. Appointment of Committee, etc.

8th. Instruction in the secret work by the organizer.

9th. Tests in the "secret work."

10th. General instruction by the organizer and answering such question as the members may ask.

TO THE ORGANIZER.

Then organizer should see that only those who are already members in good standing and those about to become members are present when the organization is made.

He should be prompt in making out and sending the report of the organization on the blanks furnished, filling every blank very plainly. The state secretary cannot order the seal to be made until he receives this report, nor give notice to the Weekly News of the new organization, thus informing all lodges of its existence and bringing it in communication with each of them.

EARLY HISTORY.

This "booklet" being adapted especially to the Arkansas Division, a brief sketch of its early history and present strength might be of interest to the reader:

On the 7th of August, 1902 by previous arrangement, Fielding Scott, National President, Early Corbin, President of the Missouri Division and W. W. Graves, Editor of the A. H. T. A. Weekly News, appeared before the Grand Order of the Independent Order of the Knights



JOHN D. SCOTT, President Arkansas Division, Fayetteville, Arkansas



L. A. EARLEY, Secretary, Arkansas Division, Springfield, Arkansas

of the Horse (An organization which was founded at Ash Flat, Crawford County, Ark., and incorporated in 1876.) with a view of uniting the two orders. A union was effected and three Sub-Orders of the A. H. T. A. were immediately organized, Arkansas at that time being under the jurisdiction of the Missouri Division. In October 1906, the Arkansas Sub-Orders were granted a State Order Charter by the National Order, then in session at Carthage, Missouri. Arkansas now has forty-five Sub-Orders with a membership of 1,500 in Benton, Washington, Madison, Crawford, Sebastian, Scott, Franklin, Yell, and Sevier counties. Washington County has a strong County organization composed of Sub-Orders. Most all the County Officials belong to the order.

The Arkansas division has had a steady growth, gradually increasing its membership, and steadily growing in favor year by year, being the most highly prized where it is best known.

It is the duty of every law-abiding citizen to give his influence to good government. If you are not a member of the A. H. T. A., then. Why not?

The officers of the Order will be pleased to furnish any additional information on request. A cordial invitation is extended to all good men to join the A. H. T. A. and help uphold our country's laws.

LADIES AUXILIARY.

In the year 1908, near Sedan, Kansas was organized the first lodge of the Ladies Social.

and Aid Society to the A. H. T. A. Later the name was changed to "The Ladies Auxiliary to the A. T. H. A." (L. A. A. H. T. A.) At first it was composed of lady members only, but members of the A. H. T. A. may now join it.

Any president of a sub-order of the A. H. T. A. may organize a lodge of the L. A. A. H. T. A. in the jurisdiction of his lodge. The annual meetings of the L. A. A. H. T. A. are held at the same time and the same city as that of the A. H. T. A.

For further information of the Ladies' Auxiliary write Mrs May McCain, president, Arkansas City, Kansas, or Mrs Edith Alexander, secretary, Pittsburg, Kansas.

THE OFFICAL PAPER.

On February 6, 1902, was published the first issue of "The A. H. T. A. Weekly News," the official paper and medium of information of the A. H. T. A. The News has done more to build up and to systematize the work of the A. H. T. A. than all other agencies combined, and thru the notices of stolen property and men wanted, many criminal have been captured and much stolen property located and recovered. These notices are free to subscribers.

The very low subscription price of the News (50 cents per year) places it within reach of every member. You will be better prepared to help your brother Anti if you are a subscriber.

If you do not take the Weekly News—Why not?

Send all subscriptions to W. W. Graves, St Paul, Kansas

CONCLUSION.

The A. H. T. A. holds the great principle that all men are endowed with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and peaceful possession of property. It has come nearer solving the problem of dealing with those who would molest these rights than all other methods combined.

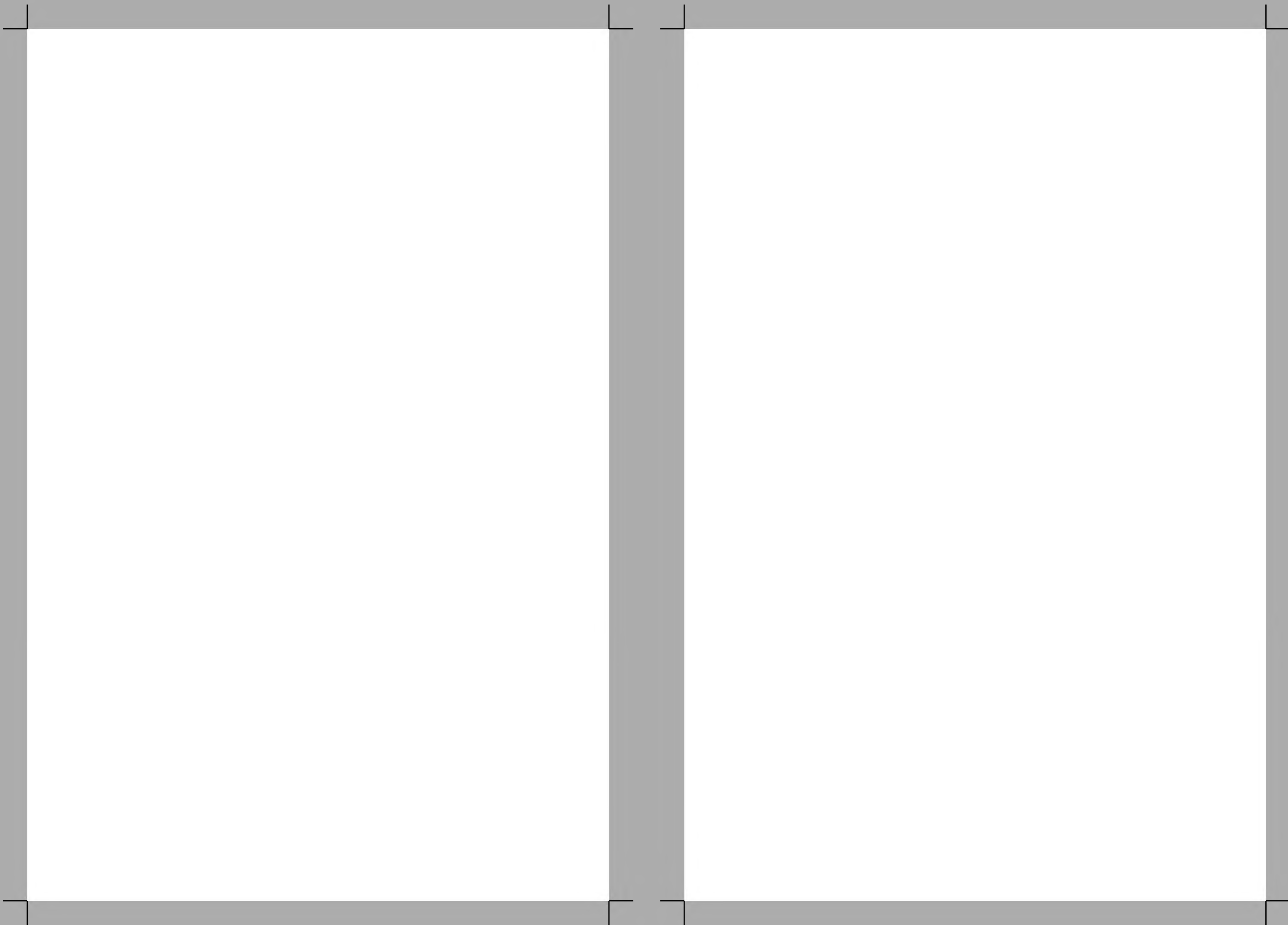
Its membership is composed of the representative people of the country where it exists. In no organization is the standard of citizenship higher, nor the character of the applicant for membership more closely scrutinized.

Amongst its members may be found State Officials, Congressman, Judges of Courts, County Officials, Ministers. Farmers, Merchants, Educators, Bankers, Lawyers, Physicians, Sheriffs, Police Officers, Post Office Employees, Railway Men, Express Company Officials, Etc. It matters not your profession or calling, if you are a law abiding citizen, you should lend your influence for good government.

Courts recognize and approve of the work of the A. H. T. A. Criminals fear it an shun it. Ministers praise it and all good citizens look upon it as the great exponent of Honesty and Justice,

If you are not a member of the A. H. T. A.--Why not?

For additional information write any official on the title page of this book.



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